

DRUG DIFFUSION BARRIERS FOR A CATHETER ASSEMBLY**Stephen D. Pacetti****ABSTRACT**

5 Materials having barrier characteristics are used with a balloon of a catheter
assembly and a sheath for covering the balloon. The barrier materials prevent
significant absorption of therapeutic substances used in association with the
balloon, for example via a medicated prosthesis, into the balloon wall or the sheath.
Accordingly the quantity and concentration of the therapeutic substances are
10 preserved. Materials which can serve as a barrier include barrier polymers,
polymers with additive fillers, polymers with a metallic coating, metallic films,
polymers with a main group element oxide coating, and sulfonated or fluorinated
polymers. For the sheath, materials such as glass and metals also function
effectively.

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